

Message Text

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY MOSCOW PRIORITY

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: SCUL, UR

SUBJECT: PROPOSED BICENTENNIAL EXHIBIT AT MANEGE AND
PROPOSED SOVIET NATIONAL EXHIBIT

REF: (A) MOSCOW 12815; (B) MOSCOW 13073

1. USIA AND DEPARTMENT APPRECIATE APPROACHES EMBASSY HAS MADE TO MFA AND CHAMBER OF COMMERCE ON PROPOSED BICENTENNIAL EXHIBIT. WHILE WASHINGTON BELIEVES MANEGE WOULD BE BEST SITE FOR EXHIBIT, WE THINK CHANCES OF GETTING SOVIET APPROVAL FOR EXHIBIT ARE VIRTUALLY NIL IF WE INSIST ON MANEGE AS ONLY APPROPRIATE SITE. THEREFORE, EMBASSY IS AUTHORIZED, AT ITS DISCRETION, TO INDICATE TO SOVIETS THAT WE WOULD BE PREPARED TO ACCEPT SUITABLE--IN TERMS OF SPACE AND EASY ACCESS BY PUBLIC--OTHER LOCATION. GENERAL VIEW HERE IS THAT VDNKH WOULD BE BEST ALTERNATIVE, DEPENDING ON HALL OR HALLS WHICH WOULD BE MADE AVAILABLE. IN VIEW OF ITS LOCATION AND FACILITIES, WE TEND TO DOUBT THAT SOKOLNIKI WOULD FIT OUR NEEDS.

2. RE PROPOSED SOVIET NATIONAL EXHIBIT, WE HAD THOUGHT WE PASSED ON TO EMBASSY SKETCHY INFORMATION SAKOVICH PROVIDED
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HERE. A CHECK OF OUR FILES INDICATES WE DID NOT RPT NOT DO

SO. ACCORDING TO SAKOVICH, SOVIETS HAVE IN MIND LARGE (10,000 SQ. METERS) EXHIBIT IN 1977, RUNNING APPROXIMATELY THREE WEEKS, IN ONLY ONE CITY. SAKOVICH CLAIMED NOT TO KNOW CONTENT OR THEME OF PROPOSED EXHIBIT, NOTING ONLY THAT IT WOULD INCLUDE EDUCATIONAL, CULTURAL, POLITICAL ASPECTS OF LIFE IN USSR. HE ALSO SAID THAT HOLDING OF SUCH AN EXHIBIT WOULD REQUIRE DECISION OF SOVIET GOVERNMENT BECAUSE OF COSTS INVOLVED AND DUE TO FACT IT WOULD BE NATIONAL IN CHARACTER. SOVIET EMBASSY PRESS COUNSELOR KAMENEV INFORMED USIA OFFICERS AND BENSON SEPTEMBER 15 THAT NATIONAL EXHIBIT WOULD BE COMMERCIAL AND TRADE ORIENTED.

3. WE ARE INFORMING SOVIET EMBASSY BY LETTER FROM ARMITAGE TO VORONTSOV THAT DEPARTMENT AGREES IN PRINCIPLE TO A SOVIET NATIONAL EXHIBIT IN US IN 1977, THAT WE WOULD LIKE TO HAVE FURTHER INFORMATION ON THEIR PLANS AS SOON AS PRACTICABLE, THAT WE EXPECT OUR BICENTENNIAL PROPOSAL TO RECEIVE POSITIVE RESPONSE FROM SOVIET SIDE, AND THAT WE CONSIDER BOTH EXHIBITS TO BE IN ADDITION TO THOSE INCLUDED IN EXCHANGES AGREEMENT. KISSINGER

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